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STATE FOR INR/R/MR, I/GWHA, WHA, WHA/PDA, WHA/BSC, WHA/EPSC
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [PREL](#) [HA](#) [AR](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: UNASUR MEETING ON HAITI; 2/10/10; BUENOS
AIRES

SUMMARY

11. Argentine press picked up wire reports on the special UNASUR meeting in Quito. Most highlighted that South American leaders pledged 300 million dollars in international aid for Haiti and called for the cancellation of its foreign debt. One article focused on Argentina's decision to send 150 more Blue Helmets to Haiti and reported Bolivian VP Garcia Linera's criticism of the U.S. military presence. End summary.

SOUTH AMERICAN

HELP FOR HAITI

12. Local papers printed wire service stories focusing on the South American leaders' purpose of supporting Haiti "in the context of the most absolute respect for its territorial sovereignty," according the Unasur final resolution on Haiti. State-owned Telam wire service agency reported that at the end of the Unasur meeting, Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana expressed Argentina's commitment to helping Haiti, stressing again that Haitian authorities should lead reconstruction efforts with the cooperation of the international community. Centrist Critica newspaper underscored, "South America seeks to provide support that will not jeopardize the territorial sovereignty of the Haitian government."

http://www.telam.com.ar/vernota.php?tipo=N&id_Pub=177106&id=340094&dis=1&sec=1

<http://www.laprensa.com.ar/354071-Argentina-i mpulsa-un-mayor-compro miso-internacional-con-Haiti.note.aspx>

http://criticadigital.com/impresa/index.php?s_ecc=nota &nid=38285

300 MILLION DOLLARS

FOR HAITI

¶2. Most stories highlighted that South American leaders pledged 300 million dollars in international aid for Haiti, of which 200 million would come out of an Inter-American Development Bank loan while individual governments would raise another \$100 million. Articles also report that the South American leaders attending the Unasur summit called for the cancellation of Haiti's foreign debt. Critica reports that "the first objective of the 100 million dollars assigned is building houses for homeless."

¶3. Under the headline "Unasur gives 300 million dollars to Haiti," conservative, small circulation newspaper La Prensa adds that "Ecuador's President Rafael Correa criticized the immediate and massive help of developed countries because it is not always the most efficient one due to the distortions it creates."

[http://criticadigital.com/impresa/index.php?s_ecc=nota
&nid=38285](http://criticadigital.com/impresa/index.php?s_ecc=nota&nid=38285)

http://www.pagina12.com.ar/diario/elpais/1-13_9981-2010-02-10.html

150 ADDITIONAL ARGENTINE

BLUE HELMETS TO HAITI,

OBJECTIONS TO THE U.S.

MILITARY PRESENCE

¶4. One article in conservative, business-financial Ambito Financiero focused on Argentina's decision to send 150 more Blue Helmets to Haiti. Edgardo Aguilera, columnist of the paper, wrote "While FM Taiana confirmed Argentina's commitment to providing humanitarian aid to Haiti, he did not mention that he would increase to 150 the number of Argentine Blue Helmets," and "Due to the 60% plus military budget cut, the government had to put together equipment from several regiments to give to the military." The article adds that during the Unasur summit, Bolivian VP Alvaro Garcia Linera proposed to have a critical attitude of the "unnecessary, abusive and dangerous" increasing U.S. military presence.

http://www.ambito.com/diario/noticia.asp?id=5_07162

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